

**A PRODUCT CATALOG FOR USE IN A  
COLLABORATIVE ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENT  
AND METHOD FOR USING SAME**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A collaborative engineering environment (CEE) enables the  
effective capture, management, communication, and exploitation of all  
product related information to a project team. The systematic employment  
of this information offers substantial improvements in productivity, cost  
savings, cycle time reductions, product integrity, and lifetime  
10   supportability of the system. Advanced CEE capabilities exploit and  
leverage the engineering, architectural and technological expertise of  
enterprise subject matter experts (domain experts) across multiple complex  
systems development and integration activities. The CEE provides a  
tightly coupled process automation using reusable product elements for  
15   coupling information with engineering processes and ensuring adherence  
to repeatable and traceable engineering processes. A product catalog  
provides a single information management point for intrinsic complex  
product characteristics and facilitates the propagation of that information  
to engineering teams incorporating the complex product into their system  
20   designs. The intrinsic complex product characteristics are augmented with  
implementation specific information to fully describe the complex product  
in the system design.